(f) whether Government have any plans to develop another missile similar to that of "Patriot" missile; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The first "Agni" test launch was carried out on 22 May, 1989.

(b) The 2nd "Agni" flight is scheduled to be tested in mid 1992.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does no arise.

(e) "Agni" is a re-entry technology demonstrator and is not a weapon system.

(f) and (g) Under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, work is under progress for development of medium range surface-to-air missile AKASH which has many similar advanced technology features as PATRIOT missile of USA.

Collaboration with U.S.A. for LCA Project

427. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to USA he had sought collaboration for the Light Combat Aircraft Project;

(b) if so what was the U.S. response thereto;

(c) whether senior Indian officials had held discussions with the North-rop Corporation of USA, if so, what was the outcome thereof;

(d) at what statge the L.C.A. Project stands at present; and

(e) whether Government are considering any proposal to seek transfer of underwater technology from USA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The discussions with US companies for technologies and components for the Light Combat Aircraft are of 'ongoing' nature and the response from the US aero-space companies to this programme is satisfactory.

(c) Senior Indian officials had discussions with the Northrop Corporation of USA mainly exchanging ideas on the development work now under progress in their US plants as also their relevance to some of the existing and proposed programmes in India.

(d) The Project Definition Phase of the LCA has been completed. The Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) commenced in April 1990 and would be carried out in two phases. Government sanction is being sought for Phase I activities for FSED in which critical technologies are planned to be demonstrated, Phase II of FSED is envisaged for integration of various other technologies to be developed in parallel to phase I. Already there is considerable progress in developing some of the critical technologies and sub-systems needed for the LCA such as Mission Computer.

(e) We have an abiding interest in some areas of underwater technology and preliminary discussions have been held for delineating areas of cooperation.

IPKF officers killed in Sri Lanka

428. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of the officers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force of the rank of Colonel and above who have been declared killed during operations in Sri Lanka and the particulars of such officers whose bodies could not be traced;

(b) whether there is any possibility about the survival of these officers; and